

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glenwood Springs Field Office
50629 Highways 6 & 24
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NUMBER: CO-140-2006-134- EA

PROJECT NAME: Bellyache Paragliding Launch Expansion

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: T4S, R83W, Sec. 35 NWSE

APPLICANT: Vail Valley Soaring Club

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action: The proposed action is to clear a new launch site to accommodate more paragliders and to provide more room for paragliders on BLM public lands for both commercial and private use. The proposed action is to clear an area of sage brush approximately 50' X 80' using hand tools. There are a few significant rocks that will need to be removed using a trackhoe. All the brush and debris removed will be taken off site to the land fill. Once the vegetation is cleared the area will be seeded with a BLM recommended seed mixture. A wooden bench would be installed and maintained by the club for spectators and/or sightseers.

Background

The new site is needed to accommodate the increased use, to address safety concerns, and to provide a bigger launch window (current window 35% new window would be 90%) based on wind direction. This new window would allow lesser skilled pilots an opportunity to launch when wind direction on the present launch was not suitable to their skill level. Paragliding activities have been taking place at the present launch for 20 years. At that time there were 4 pilots using the site. In the period of 20 years there are now over 50 or so members of the Vail Soaring Club with upwards of 20 pilots at the launch site on a given weekend. With the present launch accommodating only 2 gliders, there is significant waiting time for pilots to lay out their gliders and launch. Due to the increase in use many pilots feel rushed, and the added pressure for pilots to launch compromised safety.

The old and new proposed launch site is on BLM public lands and landings are done on private property (Joufflas). The Bellyache site currently is used for mostly for morning flights.

No Action Alternative: Under the no action alternative a new launch site would not be authorized and cleared of vegetation. Over-crowding and current safety concerns would continue at the existing launch site.

NEED FOR THE ACTION:

This proposed action is to provide the public and BLM's commercial paragliding permittees a safe place to conduct paragliding activities on BLM public lands. The proposed action will help meet the public's increasing demand for paragliding activities on Bellyache. The proposed action is also to address the Vail Valley Soaring Clubs request and proposal for this expansion in 2005.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW: The Proposed Action is subject to and has been reviewed for conformance with the following plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM 1617.3):

Name of Plan: Glenwood Springs Resource Management Plan.

Date Approved: Amended in November 1991 - Oil and Gas Leasing and Development - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended Nov. 1996 - Colorado Standards and Guidelines; amended in August 1997 - Castle Peak Travel Management Plan; amended in March 1999 - Oil and Gas Leasing & Development Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement; amended in November 1999 - Red Hill Plan Amendment; and amended in September 2002 – Fire Management Plan for Wildland Fire Management and Prescriptive Vegetation Treatment Guidance.

Decision Number/Page:

Decision Language: The action is in conformance with "Administrative Actions" (p. 5) of the RMP, which approves the "issuance of permits for ...competitive and commercial recreation activities". The action is also in conformance with the Recreation Resource Management Objective Page 34: "To ensure the continued availability of outdoor recreational opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other sources, to reduce the impacts of recreational use on fragile and unique resource values, and to provide for visitor safety."

Standards for Public Land Health

In January 1997, Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the Standards for Public Land Health. The five standards cover upland soils, riparian systems, plant and animal communities, threatened and endangered species, and water quality. Standards describe conditions needed to sustain public land health and relate to all uses of the public lands.

The Bellyache launch site is within the Eagle River South landscape which was the subject of a formal land health assessment in 2002. The Determination Document, which was signed on 12/9/2003, indicated that this portion of the landscape was meeting all the standards at the time.

The impact analysis for this proposed action must address whether the action or any alternatives being analyzed would result in impacts that would maintain, improve, or deteriorate land health conditions for that specific parameter. These analyses are located in specific elements listed below.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES / MITIGATION MEASURES:

CRITICAL ELEMENTS

AIR QUALITY

Affected Environment: The proposed action and “no action” area (Eagle County) has been described as an attainment area under CAAQS and NAAQS (Colorado Ambient Air Quality Standards and National Ambient Air Quality Standards). An attainment area is an area where ambient air pollution amounts are determined to be below NAAQS standards.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

Affected Environment: There are no Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the proposed action area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Affected Environment: Three cultural resource inventories (GSFO# 5401-9, 5405-24, and 15806-8) have been conducted for this action. No historic properties were identified. Therefore, formal consultation was not initiated with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer for this project and a determination of **“No Historic Properties Affected”** was made based upon results of the inventory, the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f as amended), BLM/SHPO National Programmatic Agreement (1997) and Colorado Protocol (1998).

Environmental Consequences: Indirect long term cumulative impacts from increased access and personnel could result in a range of impacts to known and undiscovered cultural resources in the vicinity of the location, from illegal collection and excavation to vandalism. The importance of the Education/Discovery Stipulation needs to be stressed to the permittee and any person involved in the construction or maintenance informing them of their responsibilities to protect and report any cultural resources encountered on public land during operations under this permit.

Mitigation: The permittee and all persons specifically associated with operations involved in this permit must be informed that any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization any of the above resources are encountered, the

proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36 CFR 800.110 & 112, 43 CFR 10.4)

No Action: Under this alternative no SRP's would be issued and commercial activities would continue to occur on BLM public lands illegally somewhat increasing the potential for direct and indirect impacts to cultural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Affected Environment: Review of 2001 data from US Census Bureau indicates the median annual income of Garfield County averages \$43,560 and is neither an impoverished or wealthy county. Median annual income of Eagle County averages \$51,578 and is not impoverished but is considered a wealthy county. U.S. Census Bureau data from July, 2002 shows the minority population of Garfield and Eagle County comprises less than 3 % of the total population¹.

Garfield County		Eagle County	
Median Household Income		Median Household Income	
Estimate	90% Confidence Interval	Estimate	90% Confidence Interval
\$43,560	\$40,491 to \$46,613	\$51,578	\$47,958 to \$55,177

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The proposed action and alternatives are not expected to create a disproportionately high and adverse human health impact or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations within the area.

FARMLANDS, PRIME AND UNIQUE

Affected Environment: The proposed action does not involve any prime or unique farmlands.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

FLOODPLAINS

¹ Table CO-EST2002-ASRO-02-08-County Population Estimates by Race Alone and Hispanic or Latino Origin: July 1, 2002
Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau
Release Date: September 18, 2003
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Affected Environment: The proposed action and “no action” areas do not take place in a floodplain.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE SPECIES

Affected Environment: Some annual weeds and invasive, non-native species have been found in the vicinity of the proposed new launch site, however, no noxious weeds have been documented there.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: Wind, water, vehicles, animals, and people transport weeds. Weeds generally germinate and become established in areas of surface disturbing activities such as road construction and maintenance, vehicular traffic, and big game and livestock grazing. The existing paraglide launch site experiences a fair amount of foot traffic which has eliminated most of the vegetation. The disturbed area is more susceptible to weed invasion than native, undisturbed ground cover. However, weeds that would become established at the launch site could subsequently invade the surrounding native vegetation.

Mitigation: The project proponent will be required to monitor the launch site for the presence of any Eagle County or Colorado-state listed noxious weeds throughout the growing season. Any weeds found will be promptly reported to the Authorized Officer.

MIGRATORY BIRDS

Affected Environment:

The proposed launch site consists primarily of mixed mountain shrubs dominated by serviceberry, snowberry, and mountain big sagebrush. Understory vegetation is a mix of non-native Kentucky bluegrass, some weedy annual forbs, and various native perennial grasses and forbs. Given the vegetation and cliff habitats found at the launch site, the area provides cover, forage, breeding, and nesting habitat for a variety of migratory birds. A couple of species found on the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Birds of Conservation Concern list may be present including Virginia’s warbler and golden eagles. Raptor species known to nest near the proposed launch site include golden eagles, red-tailed hawks, and northern goshawks.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow for the clearing of vegetation to construct a new launch site near the existing launch site in order to accommodate increased use and demand. Approximately 0.1 acres of sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub habitat would be removed to accommodate the new launch site. The action also calls for the seeding of the area

upon clearing of native vegetation. The new site would be used in conjunction with the old site to accommodate increased use. The activity would result in a small loss of forage and cover for migratory birds. If vegetation clearing is conducted during the breeding season it is possible that nests and/or eggs could be destroyed. Noise and human use in the area would increase with approval of the new site which would likely displace birds away from the area during times of use.

No Action:

Under the no action alternative, no new launch site would be constructed. Use would continue at the existing site and no new impacts to migratory birds would result.

NATIVE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONCERNS

Affected Environment: At present, no Native American concerns are known by the GSFO within the project area and none were identified during the inventories. The Ute Tribes claim the area as part of their ancestral homeland. If new data is disclosed by the Ute Tribes, new terms and conditions may have to be negotiated to accommodate their concerns.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The same Environmental consequences and Mitigation described in the Cultural Resources section apply here.

No Action: This alternative would be the same as in Cultural Resources.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES (includes an analysis on Standard 4)

Affected Environment: According to the latest species list from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the following federally listed and candidate species may reside or be impacted by actions occurring in Eagle County: bald eagle, Canada lynx, black-footed ferret, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, Gunnison sage grouse, yellow-billed cuckoo, razorback sucker, Colorado pikeminnow, bonytail chub, and humpback chub.

Specific to the project area, the Bellyache launch site is located in Canada lynx habitat mapped as “other” habitat, and is located within the Castle Peak Landscape Linkage (CPLL) for Canada lynx.

The proposed launch site contains potential habitat for the BLM sensitive plant species, Harrington’s penstemon. Surveys were conducted for this species in late June, 2005, during the time when the plants would still be in flower and identifiable. No Harrington’s penstemon plants were found at the Bellyache launch site.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:

Canada lynx

The Bellyache launch site is located in Canada lynx habitat mapped as “other”. “Other” habitat is defined as sagebrush or pure aspen within 500 meters of winter foraging habitat (spruce-fir dominated). The site is mapped as “other” habitat due to its proximity to mapped winter foraging habitat located within 500 meters to the west on private lands. The site itself is a mixed mountain shrubland site dominated by serviceberry, snowberry, and mountain big sagebrush. Given this habitat type and its location on the cliff edge, the area is very marginal for lynx. Pure sage or aspen would provide better alternative food sources in the summer months.

The likelihood of lynx being in the area is remote given that the winter foraging habitat on private land contains several large homes and associated infrastructure. A paved road is also present nearby. Given the small size of the proposed launch site and the fact that activity has been occurring in the area for several years, the proposed action should have **“No Effect”** to Canada lynx or its habitat. The ability of lynx to move through the area would not be affected and the functionality of the CPLL would not be altered via the proposed action.

Given a lack of suitable habitat for any other federal or state listed species, the proposed action should have **“No Effect”** to any other listed species.

Harrington’s penstemon

No Harrington’s penstemon or any other special status plants were found in the vicinity of the existing and proposed launch sites, therefore, there should be no impact to any special status plants.

No Action:

Under the no action alternative, no new launch site would be built. No impacts to special status species would result. Environmental consequences would be similar to the proposed action.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Special Status Species: The proposed launch site is in area that has been the subject of a formal Land Health Assessment. The proposed action should have minimal bearing on the site’s or watershed’s ability to meet Standard 4 for special status species.

WASTES, HAZARDOUS OR SOLID

Affected Environment: There will be no hazardous or solid wastes generated from this proposed action.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

WATER QUALITY, SURFACE AND GROUND (includes an analysis on Standard 5)

Affected Environment:

Surface Water: The proposed action area lies within the Eagle River Watershed located above the City of Wolcott. The sites are located on the edge of the watershed boundary and do not lie near any significant drainages. This section of the Eagle River is classified as aquatic life cold class 1, recreation class 1a, water supply and agriculture.

The state of Colorado has developed the 303(d) list which identifies impaired water bodies, waters not meeting water quality standards with technology based controls alone. No streams within the proposed action watershed area are known to be listed on the 303(d) list; suggesting water quality standards are currently being met.

Proposed Action and No Action:

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Surface Water: Both of the alternatives would not likely affect surface water quality in the area. Effects of erosion, as mentioned in the soils section of this document would be minimal and localized to a small area. No mitigation is required or recommended.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for water quality: There is no indication that the proposed action would prevent Standard 5 from being met.

WETLANDS & RIPARIAN ZONES (includes a analysis on Standard 2)

Affected Environment: The Proposed Action and alternatives are not located within wetlands or riparian zones.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: There would be no impact to wetlands or riparian zones from either the Proposed Action or the No Action alternative.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems: There would be no affect on the Public Land Health Standard for riparian systems.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Affected Environment: There are no un-studied rivers, rivers found to eligible or designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

WILDERNESS

Affected Environment: There are no designated Wilderness areas, Wilderness Study Areas or citizens proposed wilderness areas within the proposed project area.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: N/A

NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS

The following elements **must** be addressed due to the involvement of Standards for Public Land Health:

SOILS (includes a analysis on Standard 1)

Affected Environment: The proposed action area cover two soil map units. The description below is summarized from the Soil Survey of Aspen-Gypsum Area, Colorado, Parts of Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties (NRCS 1992).

The Wolcott site is located on a Jerry loam (25-65% slopes) soil map unit. This unit is typically found on hills and alluvial fans and is described as well drained. Runoff is described as very rapid and water erosion hazards are moderate. This unit is primarily used as rangeland and is not generally suitable for homesite development due to slope and shrink-swell potential.

The Bellyache site is located on a Forsey cobbly loam (25-65% slopes). This map unit is typically found on alluvial fans, mountainsides, and ridges. Runoff characteristics are described as medium and the water erosion hazard is moderate. Primary uses for this soil type include wildlife habitat and limited grazing.

Proposed Action and No Action:

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation: The level of recreational use of each of these sites under the “no action” and proposed action would likely be similar. Each site is comprised of a trail-way to the launch point where vegetation is sparse. The use of these sites would likely prevent vegetation from spreading across the site. Soils would generally remain exposed and prone to small-scale erosion, but would not be subject to mitigation as these effects would be minimal.

In the event the sites are abandoned for recreational use, it is recommended that the trails and launch sites be closed and re-vegetated.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for soils: The proposed action and “no action” alternative would not likely prevent land health standards from being met.

VEGETATION (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment: The vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the proposed launch site consists primarily of mixed mountain shrubs dominated by serviceberry, snowberry, and mountain big sagebrush. Understory vegetation is a mix of non-native Kentucky bluegrass, some weedy annual forbs, and various native perennial grasses and forbs. The existing Bellyache Launch site has been partially denuded of vegetation due to existing use by non-commercial paragliders.

Environmental Consequences: **Construction....**Human use of the proposed launch sites would likely result in the loss of less than one acre of shrubby and herbaceous vegetation. The loss of native vegetative cover would result in an elevated risk of invasion of the area by noxious weeds.

Mitigation: As stated in the Invasive, Non-native Species section, the project proponent(s) will be required to monitor the project area for the presence of any Eagle County or State-listed noxious weeds during the growing season. Any noxious weeds found will be promptly reported to the Authorized Officer to aid in timely control and prevent expansion of the infestation.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for Healthy Plant Communities (see also Wildlife, Aquatic and Wildlife, Terrestrial): Formal land health assessments have been done on both proposed launch sites, and both sites were found to be meeting the Standard for healthy plant communities at that time. The proposed action would not likely affect the ability of the landscape to meet, maintain, or move towards meeting Standard 3 for healthy plant communities

WILDLIFE, AQUATIC (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

The proposed launch site is located within 1/8 mile of Bear Creek a small ephemeral drainage. The creek contains no aquatic wildlife as it only runs water during spring snowmelt and summer thunderstorm activity. Bear Creek drains into the Eagle River which contains brown and rainbow trout, and aquatic insects.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow for the clearing of vegetation to construct a new launch site near the existing launch site in order to accommodate increased use and demand. Approximately 0.1 acres of sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub habitat would be removed to accommodate the new launch site. The action also calls for the seeding of the area upon clearing of native vegetation. The new site would be used in conjunction with the old site to accommodate increased use. The activity would result in a small loss of upland vegetation. Until reseeding efforts take hold the area will be bare dirt. This will contribute to small site specific erosion increases. However, given the size of the proposed launch site, sedimentation of nearby drainages is not likely. No impacts to aquatic wildlife are anticipated from the proposed action.

No Action:

Under the no action alternative, no new launch site would be constructed. No additional soil loss or erosion would occur. No impacts to aquatic wildlife would result.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Terrestrial): A formal Land Health Assessment was completed for the proposed launch site location. The watershed was meeting Standard 3 and the proposed action should have no bearing on the watershed's ability to continue to meet the standard.

WILDLIFE, TERRESTRIAL (includes an analysis on Standard 3)

Affected Environment:

The proposed launch site consists primarily of mixed mountain shrubs dominated by serviceberry, snowberry, and mountain big sagebrush. Understory vegetation is a mix of non-native Kentucky bluegrass, some weedy annual forbs, and various native perennial grasses and forbs. Given the vegetation and cliff habitats found at the launch site, the area provides cover, forage, breeding, and nesting habitat for a variety of big game, small game, non-game, mammals and birds. The launch site is identified as a habitat concentration area for black bears, an important elk and deer migration corridor, and important big game winter range.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Proposed Action:

The proposed action would allow for the clearing of vegetation to construct a new launch site near the existing launch site in order to accommodate increased use and demand. Approximately 0.1 acres of sagebrush/mixed mountain shrub habitat would be removed to accommodate the new launch site. The action also calls for the seeding of the area upon clearing of native vegetation. The new site would be used in conjunction with the old site to accommodate increased use. The activity would result in a small loss of forage and cover for terrestrial wildlife, and will increase habitat fragmentation in the area. Human use in the area would increase with approval and construction of the new site which would likely displace wildlife away from the area during times of use due to noise and human presence. Use of the site is generally in the summer months which should minimize impacts to elk and mule deer which use the area as winter range and as a movement corridor between summer and winter ranges. Black bear use peaks in the fall when bears are eagerly scavenging for berries, seeds, and acorns prior to winter hibernation.

No Action:

Under the no action alternative, no new launch site would be constructed. Use would continue at the existing site but no new habitat loss would result.

Analysis on the Public Land Health Standard for plant and animal communities (partial, see also Vegetation and Wildlife, Aquatic): A formal Land Health Assessment was completed for the proposed launch site. The site was meeting Standard 3 and the proposed action should have minimal bearing on the watershed's ability to continue to meet the standard.

OTHER NON-CRITICAL ELEMENTS: For the following elements, those brought forward for analysis will be formatted as shown above.

Non-Critical Element	NA or Not Present	Applicable or Present, No Impact	Applicable & Present and Brought Forward for Analysis
Travel/Access			✓
Cadastral Survey	✓		
Fire/Fuels Management		✓	
Forest Management	✓		
Geology and Minerals	✓		
Hydrology/Water Rights	✓		
Law Enforcement			
Paleontology	✓		
Noise	✓		
Range Management	✓		
Realty Authorizations	✓		
Recreation			✓
Socio-Economics		✓	
Transportation		✓	
Visual Resources		✓	

TRAVEL/ACCESS

Affected Environment:

The travel designation for the project area as approved in the 1984 Glenwood Springs Field Office RMP is; “motorized vehicle use open to vehicle use year-round both on and off routes.”

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Overall, the project will have no positive or negative affect on access. The project’s activities are consistent with the “open” area travel designation.

No Action

If the project was not undertaken, the impacts would be the same as those discussed in the proposed action.

RECREATION

Affected Environment:

The project is in the Glenwood Springs Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA), where recreation is a significant activity but not the principal management focus. In the Glenwood Springs ERMA, management is “custodial” and geared to the provision of dispersed recreation. The BLM addresses visitor health and safety, user conflict, and protection of the resource from damage due to recreation over-use or abuse. Management direction for the ERMA in the 1984 RMP is “to provide visitor information,

minimal sanitation facilities and access... [and to] manage ERMAs to resolve management issues and for off-road [vehicle] (ORV) use”.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Lands managed by the GSFO were inventoried in terms of their recreational character for the 1984 (Revised 1988) RMP (BLM 1984, Appendix C, Map 9). The BLM used the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification system for the inventory. The ROS system defines six recreation opportunity classes that provide settings for different styles of recreational use: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban areas.

The project area is located within the Rural recreation opportunity class. Settings in this category are characterized by a substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and use practices are obvious. Sign and sounds of man are readily evident and the concentration of users is high. The BLM’s use of the ROS is descriptive and not prescriptive for management purposes.

Environmental Consequences/Mitigation:

Overall, the project will have a negligible affect on the publics dispersed recreation use of the area. The only affect would be at the launch site itself. The proposed action would not negatively affect the recreation setting or the primary activities of other public land users. The public would benefit by the addition of another activity opportunity. Since the overall use is low no anticipated conflicts are anticipated between outfitted and non-outfitted use.

No Action:

If the project was not undertaken, the impacts to the general public would be the same as those discussed in the proposed action because the site is being used by the general public now.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS SUMMARY:

PERSONS / AGENCIES CONSULTED:

Denise Joufflas Lipp
John and Diana Donovan
Vail Soaring Club- Greg Kelley

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Area of Responsibility</u>
Cheryl Harrison	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns
Tom Fresques	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial & Aquatic Wildlife, Special Status Wildlife Species
Carla Scheck	Ecologist	Special Status Plants, Vegetation, Invasive/Non-native Species

Mike Kinser
Brian Hopkins
Kay Hopkins
Mark Wimmer

Rangeland Management Specialist
Community Planner
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Rangeland Management Specialist

Riparian
Transportation, Recreation
VRM, ACEC, WSR, Wilderness
Soil/Water/Air/Floodplains

FONSI**CO-140-2006-053 EA**

The environmental assessment, analyzing the environmental effects of the proposed action, has been reviewed. The proposed action with mitigation measures result in a finding of no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not necessary to further analyze the environmental effects of the proposed action.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the proposed action with the following mitigation and to issue Special Recreation Permits for commercial paragliding flights and instruction activities taking place on public lands.

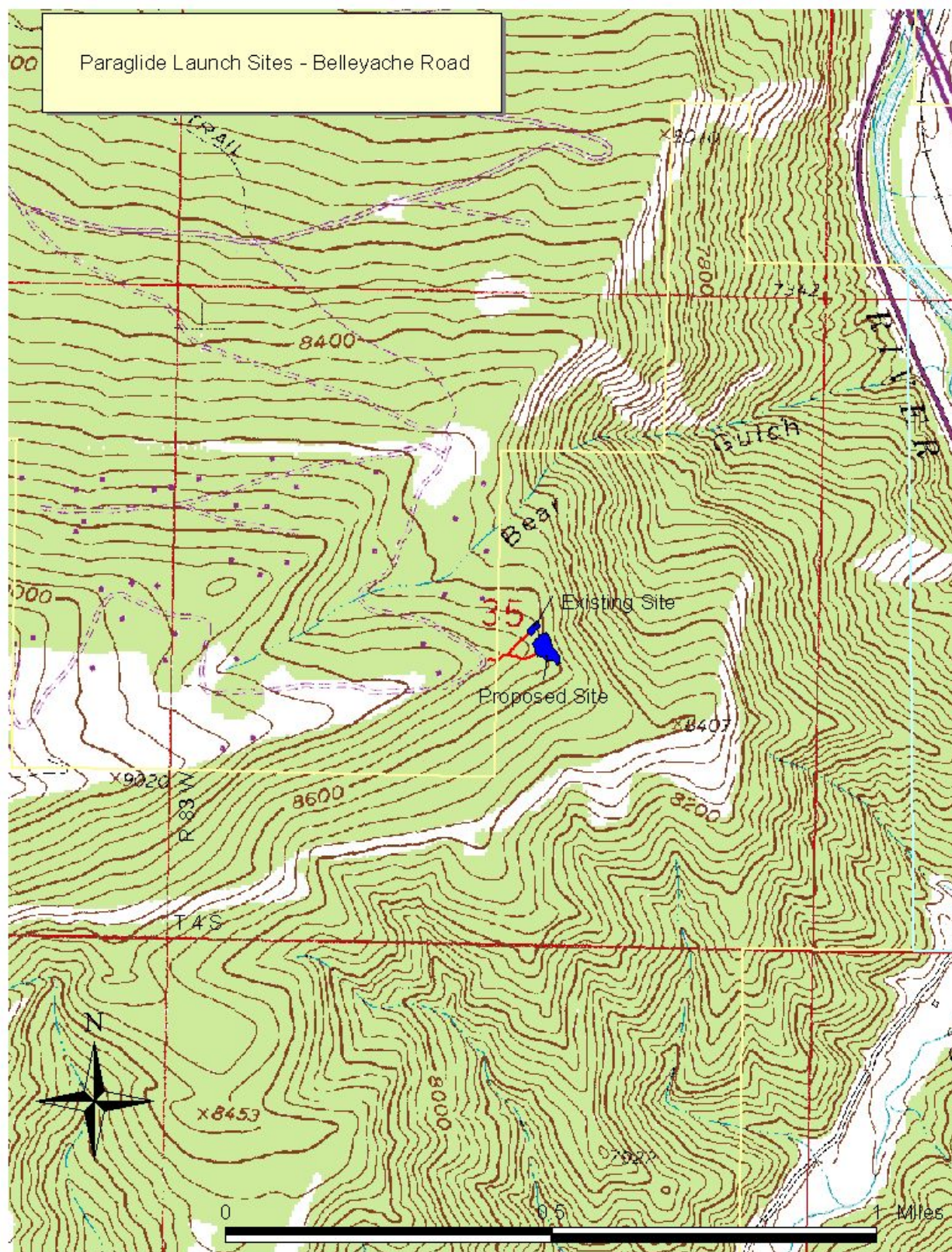
RATIONALE: The analysis of the proposed commercial recreation use with mitigation measures did not identify any impacts that would be significant in nature either in context or intensity. The proposed action will bring commercial paragliding activities into compliance with BLM SRP regulations authorized under 43 CFR, Part 2930, Subpart 2932. Currently there is nothing to indicate the action is highly controversial and that it is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant actions.

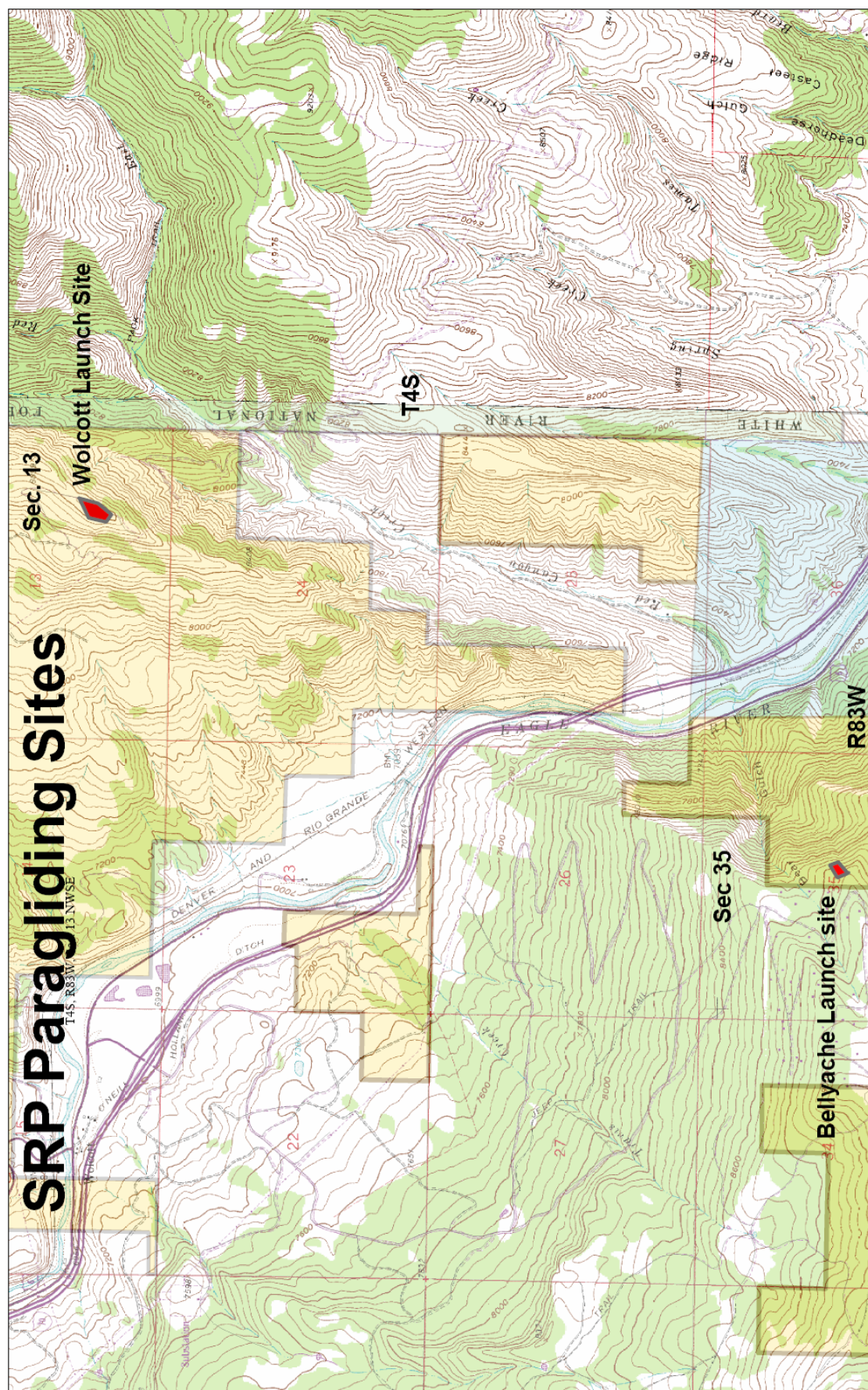
MITIGATION MEASURES:

The project proponent will be required to monitor for the presence of any Eagle County or Colorado-state listed noxious weeds throughout the growing season. Any weeds found will be promptly reported to the Authorized Officer.

The permittee and all persons specifically associated with operations involved in this permit must be informed that any objects or sites of cultural, paleontological, or scientific value such as historic or prehistoric resources, graves or grave markers, human remains, ruins, cabins, rock art, fossils, or artifacts shall not be damaged, destroyed, removed, moved, or disturbed. If in connection with allotment operations under this authorization any of the above resources are encountered, the proponent shall immediately suspend all activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery that might further disturb such materials and notify the BLM authorized officer of the findings. The discovery must be protected until notified in writing to proceed by the authorized officer (36 CFR 800.110 & 112, 43 CFR 10.4)

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER:**DATE SIGNED:****SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:****DATE SIGNED:****ATTACHMENTS:** Map, photos.





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